

Appl. No. 10/092,187
Amdt. dated October 16, 2003
Response to Office Action of July 16, 2003 (Paper No. 6)

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 15-29 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,353,077. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the present amendment.

Claims 2, 4-8, and 10-16 have been canceled and the rejection is moot with respect thereto. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitation of claim 3. It is submitted that claim 1 no longer claims the same invention as any of claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,077 and the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn. Applicant notes that a terminal disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent 6,353,077 has previously been submitted in this application.

Claim 3 has been objected to for depending upon a rejected claim. As noted above, claim 3 has been canceled and its limitations incorporated into amended claim 1. Accordingly, the objection to claim 3 is now moot.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 17-19 are allowed.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1 and 17-19 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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